

What is claimed is:

1. A method for testing multiple dial-up points in a communications network, comprising:
 - executing instructions at a monitoring station for establishing a plurality of dial monitor processes; and
 - establishing, via each process, a respective connection from the monitoring station to a respective one of the dial-up points;
 - wherein the plurality of dial monitor processes are adapted to run concurrently, at least in part, for establishing their respective connections.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein:
 - each process comprises a thread.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein:
 - each dial monitor process is provided as a distinct instance.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein:
 - the dial-up points are associated with an Internet site.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein:
 - the dial-up points are associated with an intranet site.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein:
 - each dial-up point comprises a point of presence in the network.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein:
 - the respective connections are established via respective analog modems.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the respective connections are established via respective Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) modems.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the respective connections are established via respective Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) terminal adapters.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

executing instructions at the monitoring station for testing services of at least one site in the network via the dial-up points.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein:

wherein a different service of the at least one site is tested via each different dial-up point.

12. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

executing instructions at the monitoring station, via a transaction monitor process that spawns the dial monitor processes, for testing services of at least one site via the respective connections.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein:

the transaction monitor process tests the services according to an associated test profiles database.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the respective connections are established using a application programming interface (API).

15. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the respective dial-up connections are established using a point-to-point protocol.

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16. The method of claim 1, wherein:
the connections are established such that an interface local to the monitoring station is associated with each connection.

17. The method of claim 1, wherein service-specific monitors test services of at least one network site via the respective connections, further comprising:
obtaining addresses from the interfaces for use in binding the service-specific monitors to respective ones of the interfaces.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein;
said binding enables each service to be tested via a respective different connection.

19. The method of claim 17, wherein:
the addresses comprise Internet Protocol addresses.

20. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
executing instructions at the monitoring station, via each process, for testing the respective connections.

21. The method of claim 20, further comprising:
communicating test data obtained from the testing for storage at a remote server.

22. The method of claim 20, further comprising:
communicating test data obtained from the testing for storage at a local datalog.

23. The method of claim 20, wherein:
the connections are tested for availability.

24. The method of claim 20, wherein:
the connections are tested for data rate.

25. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the dial monitor processes run test profiles for testing the respective connections

26. The method of claim 25, wherein:

the dial monitor processes run their test profiles in response to an invoked property if

27. The method of claim 26, wherein:

the invoked property comprises a communication port identifier.

28. The method of claim 26, wherein:

the invoked property is entered by a user at a command line interface.

29. The method of claim 26, wherein:

the invoked property is read in from a properties file.

30. An apparatus for testing multiple dial-up points in a communications network,

means for executing instructions at a monitoring station for establishing a plurality of

means for establishing, via each process, a respective connection from the monitoring

wherein the plurality of dial monitor processes are adapted to run concurrently, at

31. A computer program product, comprising:

a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied

the computer readable program code means comprising means for executing instructions at the monitoring station for establishing a plurality of dial monitor processes, and means for establishing, via each process, a respective connection from the monitoring station to a respective one of the dial-up points;

wherein the plurality of dial monitor processes are adapted to run concurrently, at least in part, for establishing their respective connections.

FOOTNOTES